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THE COMIC READER

Number 138 ◆ December 1976

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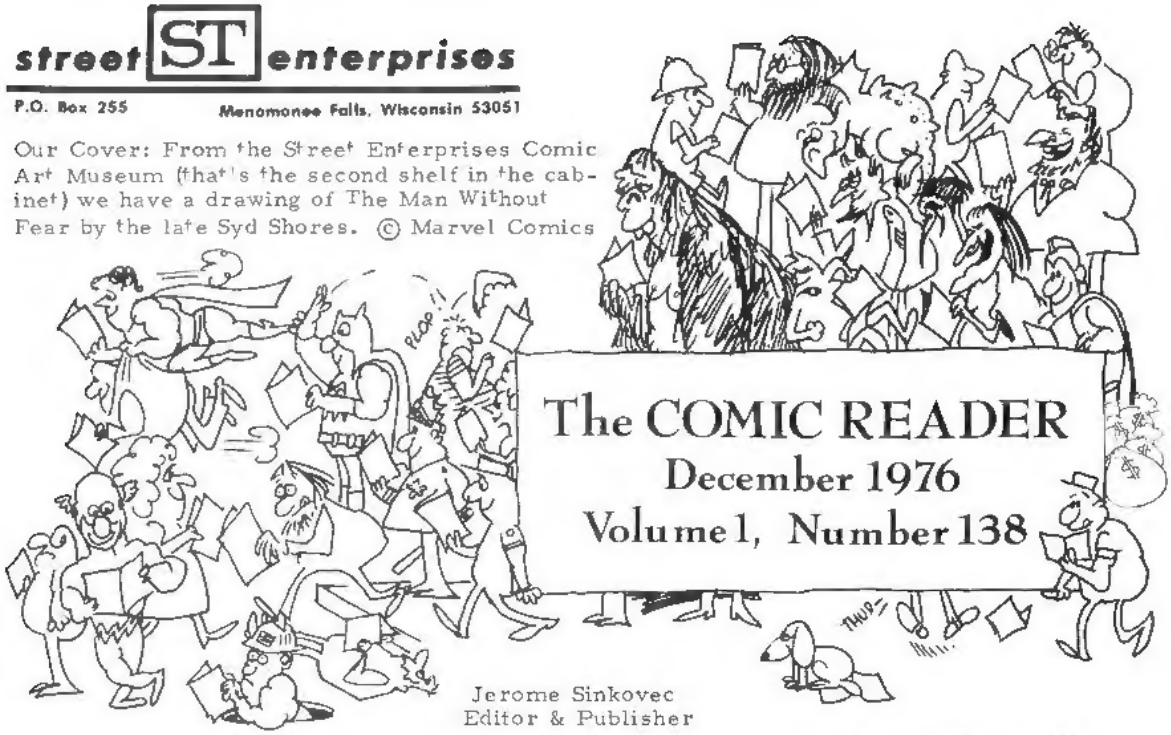
P.O. Box 255 Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53051

Our Cover: From the Street Enterprises Comic Art Museum (that's the second shelf in the cabinet) we have a drawing of The Man Without Fear by the late Syd Shores. © Marvel Comics



The COMIC READER

December 1976

Volume 1, Number 138

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Sample Copy: 60¢
Six Issues: $3.50
Twelve Issues: $7.00

Overseas
(Sent Air Mail)
Six Issues: $7.25
Twelve Issues: $14.00

DEALER RATES
The Comic Reader is available at 50% off the retail price of 60¢ per copy to anyone willing to take 25 or more copies per month. Minimum order: 25 copies @ $7.50

BACK ISSUES
Issues #92,94-96,100-111, 113-116,118,120-128,130, 131,133-136 are 50¢ each. All others are sold out.

THE COMIC READER is published monthly by Street Enterprises, P. O. Box 255, Menomonee Falls, Wisconsin 53051. Phone: (414) 251-6933. Printing by Falls Publishing Co.
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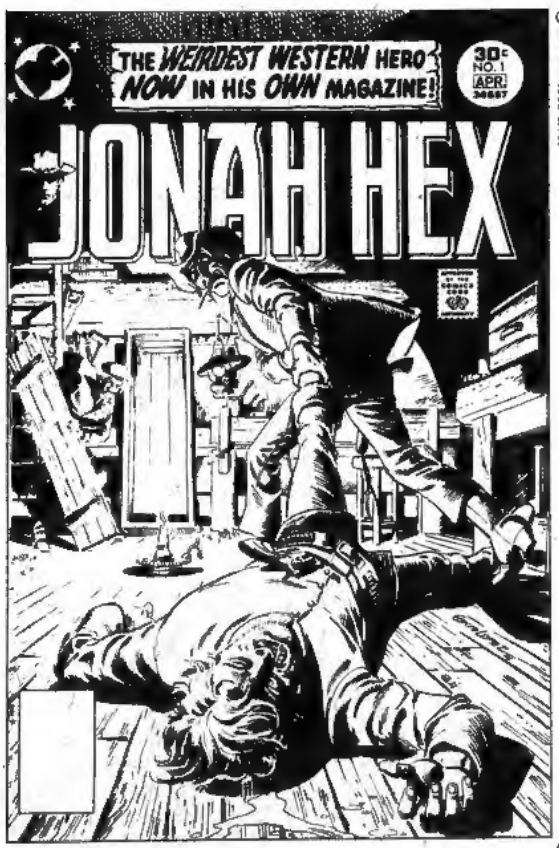
DC News

First, the cancellations. HERCULES UNBOUND will end with #12, August-September, 1977, out next May. KOBRA will cease as of #7, March-April, 1977, out this month. Kobra, however, arch-villain that he is, will continue to plague other DC characters as guest-villain in their own books.

Now for the revival. Another long-time fandom favorite, SHOWCASE, will begin again with #94, August-September, 1977, on sale in May. The traditional two or three issue try-outs utilized up to 1968 and a few times thereafter will differentiate this book from the other try-out titles, DC SPECIAL and DC SUPER STARS. Although not definitely set, it looks as if the first new issue of SHOWCASE will feature a new try-out for HAWKMAN.

SECRET SOCIETY OF SUPER-VILLAINS has been promoted to eight times a year, effective with #9, September-October, 1977, on sale next June. The creative staff on the book will be Gerry Conway, Rich Buckler and Bob Layton, with Jack Harris as Story Editor. Future guest-heroes will include Kid Flash and The Creeper, while a guest-villain will be The Trickster.

Mark Evanier has been made Script Editor of WELCOME BACK, KOTTER -- the television program, NOT the comic book. But since he will be writing the comic book, we can be assured that it will be faithful to it -- probably the first time that's happened.



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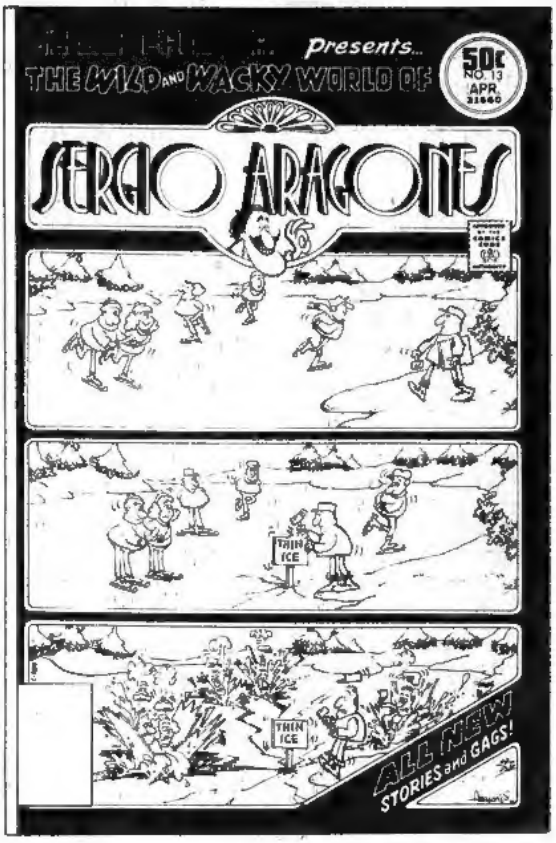

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Cary Burkett has been made an assistant editor.

Jack C. Harris will be Story Editor of CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN, SHADE THE CHANGING MAN and YOUNG LOVE (which we didn't mention before). Paul Levitz will be Story Editor of NEW GODS, which will be written by Gerry Conway, and will continue as Story Editor of SUPER-TEAM FAMILY.

Upcoming one-shot issues include DC SUPER STARS #14, which will feature an all-new SECRET ORIGINS OF SUPER-VILLAINS, with origins of Super Gorilla Grodd, by Bob Rozakis and Rich Buckler, Two-Face, redone by Jack Harris and John Calnan, and Dr. Light, by Paul Kupperberg, Dick Ayers and Jack Abel; and DC SPECIAL #27, entitled DANGER: DINOSAUR AT LARGE with Captain Comet and Tommy Tomorrow by Bob Rozakis and Rich Buckler; #28 will feature another GREAT DISASTERS issue, this time all-new; and a future DC SPECIAL will feature the origin of the JUSTICE SOCIETY OF AMERICA, probably by Paul Levitz and Joe Staton.

George Evans will be doing the finished art on THE SAVAGE over Dick Ayers' layouts.

Steve Englehart has written a two-part STARFIRE story in which, among other things, she receives a new costume.

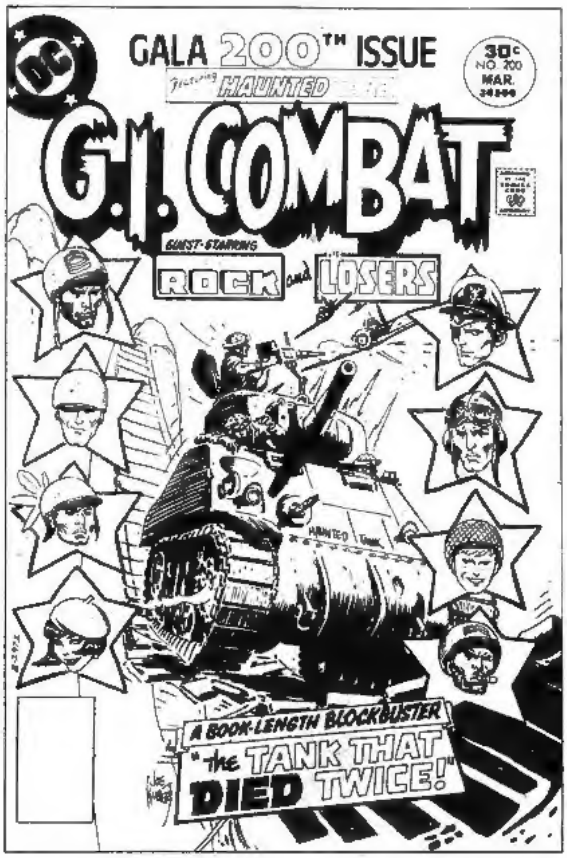
THE WARLORD, who is returning to the surface world, will be under the scrutiny of the C. I. A.

Supergirl is going to meet a new and villainous group called The Visitors From The Void. In addition, her foster parents, Fred and Edna Danvers, will be brought back to active roles and she will be getting a new job. (And if you think it was easy to find Supergirl's mother's name...)

Kamandi will head out in search of The Power Source of the Great Disaster and Ben Boxer will mysteriously vanish.

Things look now as if Mike Nasser and Bob Wiacek will do the art on CHALLENGERS OF THE UNKNOWN.

Gray Morrow will be doing the art on the new VIGILANTE strip in WORLD'S FINEST with the second episode. Bill Kunkel is writing.



The December, January and February issues of SGT. ROCK will be layed out by Joe Kubert, pencilled by Joe Orlando, and inked by Frank Springer.

HOUSE OF MYSTERY #252 will tell the origin of Cain's strange attachment with The House in a story written by Paul Kupperberg.

A future two-part DETECTIVE COMICS story will introduce a new villain called Dr. Phosphor, created by Steve Englehart, Walt Simonson and Al Milgrom.

Mike Grell's first issue of BATMAN as regular artist will be #287.

The Cheetah WILL be reappearing in WONDER WOMAN (but thirty-five years ago).

The MANHUNTER FROM MARS series begun in ADVENTURE will conclude in the lead story of WORLD'S FINEST #245, as J'onn J'onzz re-meets Superman and Batman.

ROBIN! WONDER GIRL! KID FLASH! SPEEDY! AQUALAD! MAL!
30¢ NO. 47 APR.
THE TEEN TITANS
TOUGH ON YOU, TITANS! YOU DIDN'T EXPECT TWIN ENEMIES-- ONE TO DROWN YOU WITH WATER--
...AND THE OTHER TO FRY YOU WITH FIRE!

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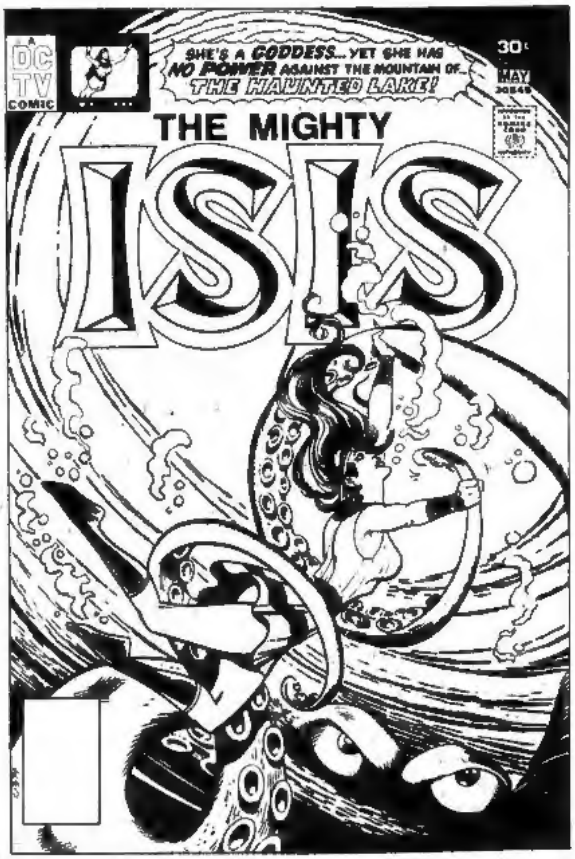
ALL STAR COMICS #66 will feature a guest appearance by a former JSA member who has NOT come out of retirement. Hint: He is now the Police Commissioner of Gotham City.



Marty Pasko is writing a four-part SUPERMAN tale guest-starring The Flash and Supergirl.

Gerry Conway and Joe Staton are providing a fill-in LEGION story in SUPERBOY #227.

The revived NEW GODS book will probably have art by Mike Vosburg and Al Milgrom.

The new back-up for ADVENTURE has yet to be decided. The DEMON has been mentioned.

Warren Coming Comics

CREEPY No. 86, February. This issue features "Noggin At Mile End" by Budd Lewis and Leopoldo Sanchez; "Dick Swift" by Bill DuBay, Carmine Infantino and Berni Wrightson; "Grandest Christmas Of All" by Roger McKenzie and Leo Duranona; "Mother Knows Best" -- a two color story -- by Bruce Jones and Al Williamson; "Bloodstone Christmas" -- also in two colors -- by Gerry Boudreau, Infantino and John Severin; "Season's Grievings" by Bruce Jones and Gonzalo Mayo; "A Gift For Mama" by Roger McKenzie and Luis Bermejo; and "A Christmas Angel" by Budd Lewis and Ramon Torrents. The cover is by Ken Kelley. (12/16)

FAMOUS MONSTERS OF FILMLAND No. 132, February. (12/16)

EERIE No. 80, February. This issue features "Goodbye Bambi Boon" by Cary Bates, Carmine Infantino, Dick Giordano; "Taking Of Queen Bovine" by Gerry Boudreau and Ramon Torrents; "Bride Of Congo" by Bill DuBay, Infantino and Gonzalo Mayo; "You're A Big Girl Now" -- in full color -- by Bruce Jones and Rich Corben; "Starchild" by Louise Jones (plot), David Michelinie and Jose Ortiz; "The Robot Ape Suit" by Roger McKenzie and Luis Bermejo, and "Golden Girl" by Nick Cuti and Leo Sanchez. The cover is by Frank Frazetta. (12/21)

THE BULLETS ARE TAKING THEIR TOLL-- SHE'S STARTING TO LOSE HER GRIP!
WHAT A SCENE, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN! BAMBI BOONE IS TERRIFIC!

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Bob Brown and Jose Delbo are switching their artistic assignments, with Brown taking over all the WONDER WOMAN stories, while Delbo does TEEN TITANS, SUPERGIRL (in SUPERMAN FAMILY) and the BATGIRL-ROBIN series (in BATMAN FAMILY).

Walt Simonson will pencil and ink the final two-part Cary Bates HERCULES UNBOUND story to appear in #11 and #12. Walt also drew the cover of YOUNG LOVE #125.

CIRCUS MAGAZINE has done an interview with boy wonder, Trevor von Eedon, artist on BLACK LIGHTNING, for their January issue.

VAMPIRELLA No. 58, February. This one features "Lenore" by Roger McKenzie and Jose Gonzalez; "A Matchstick Angel" by Budd Lewis and Ramon Torrents; "The Funeral Day" by Jose Ortiz and Roger McKenzie; "Yellow Heed" by Bruce Jones and Russ Heath; "A Christmas Flower" by Lewis and Ortiz; "Little Monsters" by McKenzie, Carmine Infantino and Dick Giordano; "Force Feed" by Cary Bates and Leo Sanchez; "Changes" by McKenzie, Leo Duranona and David Bowie; "A Sleeping Beauty" by Bill DuBay and Esteban Maroto; and "The Wambaugh" by Bruce Jones and Auraleone. The cover is by Enrich. (12/21)

Marvel News

Marvel and Edgar Rice Burroughs, Inc. have finally put the ink to a new contract which will lease the Burroughs characters to Marvel. Marvel has scheduled two new books: TARZAN, by Roy Thomas, John Buscema and The Tribe, and JOHN CARTER, WARLORD OF MARS, by Marv Wolfman and Gil Kane. Each title will include new fifteen page stories plus two pages of special features because Marvel must also provide all the artwork for European distribution, and European publications call for the fifteen page story length. Although current plans only call for these books to be monthlies, each team involved will be creating one new book each week -- which means that after the first six months of publication, Marvel will have a backlog of just under two years. We expect that, sooner or later, another ERB title or two will be added to take up the slack.

Marvel has also acquired the licensed rights to a movie adaptation of the upcoming ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU and will do it as a one-shot. In addition, regular books have been scheduled for two more acquisitions, GODZILLA and THE HUMAN FLY. No artists, writers or frequencies have been announced.

To make room for all of these acquired properties, the black and white line has been pared to SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN, CRAZY, THE RAMPAGING HULK and MARVEL PREVIEW. Cancelled are PLANET OF THE APES

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DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU with #32, February, 1977; and DOC SAVAGE with #8, June, 1977.

WEREWOLF BY NIGHT has been cancelled but Marvel isn't sure with which issue at present.

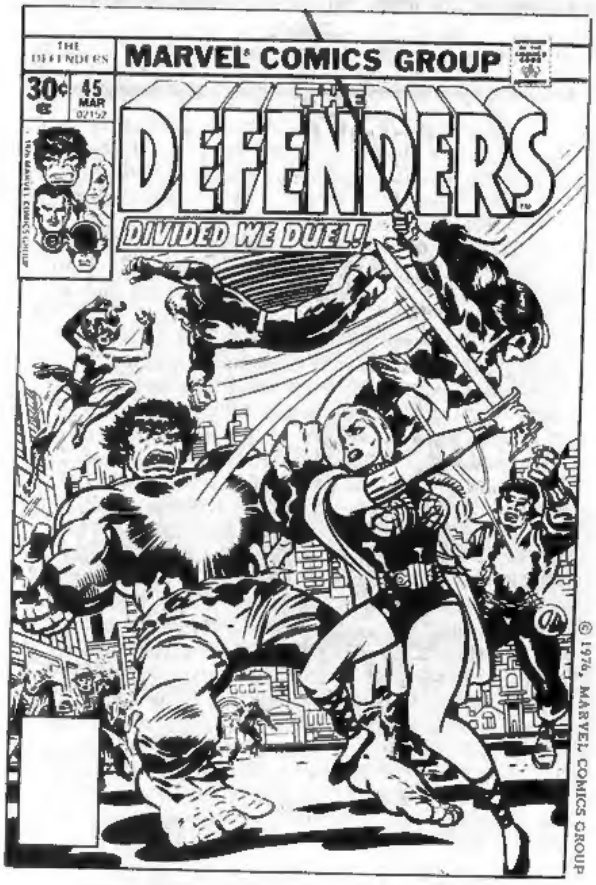
The 3-D super-hero that is slated to run in three issues of MARVEL PREMIERE is called THE 3-D MAN, not Captain 3-D. Jack Kirby, who co-created CAPTAIN 3-D in 1953, will do the cover for the first 3-D MAN.

After the DEATHLOK issue of MARVEL SPOTLIGHT (presumably the story originally slated for the non-existant ASTONISHING TALES #37), the WEIRDWORLD issue is scheduled, now entitled TYNDAL'S QUEST, by Doug Moench, Mike Ploog and Alex Nino. Following that will be a two issue TORPEDO tryout by Marv Wolfman, Bob Brown and Al Milgrom.

CAPTAIN BRITAIN will be making his U.S. debut in MARVEL TEAM-UP as he meets Spider-Man. If that goes well we wouldn't be surprised if the strip is reprinted here.

MAN-GOD will be appearing in MARVEL PREVIEW #9 with THOR in #10.

Future AVENGERS happenings: A new villain who has control over gravity will be introduced; Wonder Man will battle The Vision; Thor will reappear as an on-call Avenger; a crossover involving a startling development will occur with The X-Men; Hellcat will provide a crossover opportunity with The Defenders; and Jarvis comes up with two new recipes for rum pudding!



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Walt Simonson will be doing the layouts for THOR beginning with #260.

In THE INVADERS, a new super-group called (suprisingly enough) The Crusaders will be introduced: Spirit of '76, Ghost Girl, Dyna-Mite, Thunder Fist, Tommy Lightning and Captain Wings. And don't be surprised when they show up in FREEDOM FIGHTERS.

Jim Craig and Pablo Marcos are the new art team on MASTER OF KUNG FU. Paul Gulacy may do covers for the book.

New characters for CAPTAIN AMERICA will include Arnim Zola, The Bio-Fanatic, and Doughboy. Sharon Carter will rejoin the ranks of SHIELD too.

CAPTAIN MARVEL #50 will guest star The Vision, Scarlet Witch, The Beast, Captain America and Iron Man -- joined to battle The Super Adaptoid. Also, Cap will meet a new female adversary named Dr. Minerva, The F.B.I. will restart their investigation of him and Rick Jones will again be freed of the Negative Zone curse.

THE CHAMPIONS will fight Kamo Tharn.

DAREDEVIL will face Man-Bull, The Owl and the Purple Man.

Astrological doings in future DEFENDERS issues include the return of Scorpio in #45, and the redesigning of Zodiac in #47.

DOCTOR STRANGE #21 will be a reprint due to deadline problems, and will contain the origin from #169 by Roy Thomas and Dan Adkins. #22 will be done by Rudy Nebres and #23 will be by Jim Starlin. With #24, Chris Claremont will script and Nebres may become permanent artist.

Did you know there were Japanese and Russian ETERNALS? Well, there are and they'll be showing up in that book soon.

The Water Wizard will be introduced in GHOST RIDER.

HOWARD THE DUCK, HOWARD THE DUCK will be going into a mental hospital for shock therapy.

IRON MAN will be meeting these faces out of his past: Madame Masque, Jasper Sitwell, The Crimson Dynamo (of hit record fame), Sunfire, The Guardsman, and for #100 -- The Mandarin.

IRON FIST will battle a new-improved version of The Boomerang and then Sabre-Tooth, while Misty heads toward danger in the Bahamas.

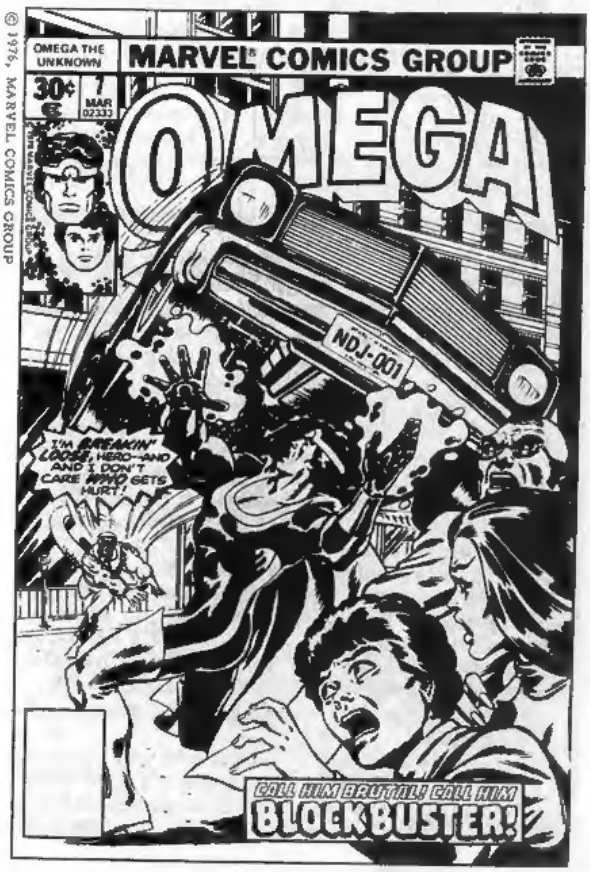
The Guardians of The Galaxy will have to put up with the destruction of the good ship Captain America by the Arcturians, meeting a strange character from the graveyard of space, the return of Korvac -- plus a return visit to planet Earth.

Jim Mooney and Joe Sinnott will be the new art team on MS. MARVEL as of #4. The origin of the Sphinx and a crossover with Spider-Man are on the agenda for NOVA.

Mace will be returning in POWER MAN.

Dr. Faustus will appear in AMAZING SPIDER-MAN with a Swine Flu vaccine conspiracy plot.

Magneto and possibly Dracula may become future playmates of Dr. Doom in SUPER-VILLAIN TEAM-UP.



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Magneto reappears in X-MEN this month, and so will Firelord and Eric The Red. A possible spin-off group called The Starjammers will also be featured as will the secret of Scott Summers' parents and Professor X's nightmares.

Jim Starlin is slated to write and draw next year's AVENGERS ANNUAL which will resolve the WARLOCK plot threads and the Thanos mythos from CAPTAIN MARVEL.

Jim Shooter, Bill Mantlo and George Tuska will do the IRON MAN ANNUAL, which will guest star THE CHAMPIONS. By the way, THE CHAMPIONS has been demoted to bi-monthly again.

Jack Kirby, of course, will do the CAPTAIN AMERICA ANNUAL.

Roy Thomas has special plans for THE INVADERS ANNUAL. Frank Robbins will do the framing pages and Roy is talking about getting Golden Age artists to reprise their roles on individual stories of each Invader. Roy has talked with Jack Kirby about doing the CAPTAIN AMERICA and BUCKY story, and Carl Burgos about doing the HUMAN TORCH & TORO tale, but nothing is definite at this time.

Dave Cockrum will be doing some inking on the JOHN CARTER stories pencilled by Gil Kane.

Michelle and Marv Wolfman are expecting a child in January. Coincidentally, Dracula's son will be born in the issue of TOMB OF DRACULA on sale in January and the winner of the Name-That-Kid contest will be announced. Major changes are being planned for the book.

Power Man will be leaving New York for the windy clime of Chicago.

Future Thing team-ups for MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE include Nick Fury, Deathlok and Sub-Mariner.

Last (and certainly not least), Leprakong, the world's largest Irish gorilla, is slated to battle the one and only Super-Rabbit, in SUPER-RABBIT.

TCR Message

I'll bet you noticed the difference in this issue's format -- Right! We still haven't fixed the dad-blamed 'T'!

Okay, so we've got our first one-color cover. You can thank Alan Light, publisher of the nationally famous tabloid, THE BUYER'S GUIDE, who has paid for the one color printing of his ad in this and the next five issues! So, you'll be getting a color on the cover until next May.

Jerry authorizes it this time: I regret to announce the cancellation of The Menomonee Falls GUARDIAN. All subscriptions will be applied to the GAZETTE -- and what features we still have left will be integrated into the GAZETTE. A GAZETTE (#226) will be forthcoming in the next couple of weeks.

One last word: Thanks to everyone who ordered from my ad last time. I sold 95% of it so far; my DC list will appear next issue.

- Mike

Media News

Sabalkheri says Lt. Uhura (which is really strange since Nomad wiped out her memory of Swahili in 1967 -- although she seemed to lapse into it as if by instinct when she became frustrated by the vagueries of the English she was being taught)... Ah, the wondrousness of this TV season. So far COS, BALL FOUR, BLUE KNIGHT (no matter what they say), GEMINI MAN, SPENCER'S PILOTS, DOC and MR. T AND TINA have all bit the dust, and I don't expect it to stop there. The biggest problem is the networks have virtually nothing ready to replace the real turkeys as is shown by ABC resurrecting the dreadful WHAT'S HAPPENING and CBS' replacement of cancelled shows with another movie night. I've seen some good pilots (LANNIGAN'S RABBI, RETURN OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST DETECTIVE, RICHIE BROCKELMAN) but they probably won't get picked up. I'd have to say my favorite new show isn't even on in prime time -- THE KIDS FROM C.A.P.E.R., which shows that even with a small budget you can have a well-written, filmed live action show that's funny. In the style of the very similar MONKEES (although these guys can't really sing and I don't expect them to have a hit single), fans of bad puns and silly non-sequiturs will be delighted. Best of all, on the east and west coasts, you don't even have to get up before noon to watch it.

M*A*S*H producer Gene Reynolds says that the series will definitely last at least two more years. Alan Alda is quite involved in the writing and directing end and nobody's unhappy, although Mike Farrell was quoted last year (before he started) that he would only stay with the show two years. At least one of my favorite shows will be back next year... Norman Lear (not one of my favorites) has another soaper on the way in April called ALL THAT GLITTERS involving six women and a man in a reversal of normal sexual roles (man does housework, women doing chartered accountancy and running forklifts), probably to go the same syndication route MARY HARTMAN, MARY HARTMAN has found some success with... The STAR TREK syndication business will be increased with the addition of the cartoon series... MARY TYLER MOORE will NOT end with Mary marrying Lou or anyone else. Mary says that would be a terrible "cop-out ending" for a show that has emphasized that there is nothing wrong with NOT being married. Amen.

MONTY PYTHON'S FLYING CIRCUS has announced their plans for their bible film, GOSPEL ACCORDING TO ST. BRIAN, the 13th disciple who, although not very well known, looked after the business side of things while the other twelve weren't making any money. Apparently all the money the six made of of HOLY GRAIL is causing them tax problems necessitating the film... In addition to the Eric Idle-Neil Innes RUTLAND TIMES WEEKEND TELEVISION SONGBOOK LP out on Passport records, Idle and Innes, with a guest bit by Michael Palin, have out THE RUTLAND WEEKEND DIRTY BOOK, a $6.95 paperback, excerpted in November's

PLAYBOY... It looks like Chevy Chase HAS left SATURDAY NIGHT for greener (whatever they might be) pastures. I doubt he'll be replaced (except maybe by a writer already on the show). SATURDAY NIGHT will probably be on every week beginning in January when WEEKEND goes weekly on Sunday afternoons.

Karen Black has been signed to play Lois Lane in the SUPERMAN film -- which has yet to cast a Man Of Steel. It looks like James Caan is back in the number one choice position, brown curly locks and all... The STAR TREK film finally has a director. He's Phil Kaufman, who formally directed THE WHITE DAWN, which I never heard of... The STAR WARS film has been delayed, which consequently means the comic book from Marvel will be also. THE ISLAND OF DR. MOREAU, a film starring Burt Lancaster and Michael York, is also slated for Marvel Comics adaptation... Another great comic talent, Spike Milligan, has been added to the cast of THE LAST REMAKE OF BEAU GESTE, the Marty Feldman baby. Milligan was a part of the old British series THE GOON SHOW, with another Britain who didn't do too badly, Peter Sellers, and was a regular (along with Terry Gilliam's animations) on ABC's MARTY FELDMAN HALF HOUR back in '69. - R. Blabbit

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Archie Coming Comics

ARCHIE GIANT SERIES MAGAZINE No. 456, March. This issue features THE WORLD OF ARCHIE. (11/23)

ARCHIE'S JOKEBOOK No. 229, February. (11/23)

BETTY AND VERONICA No. 254, February. (11/23)

PEP COMICS No. 322, February. (11/23)

ARCHIE GIANT SERIES MAGAZINE No. 457, April. This issue features THE WORLD OF JUGHEAD. (11/30)

LAUGH COMICS No. 311, February. (11/30)

LIFE WITH ARCHIE No. 178, February. (11/30)

JUGHEAD No. 261, February. (11/30)

LITTLE ARCHIE No. 115, February. (12/7)

ARCHIE AND ME No. 90, February. (12/7)

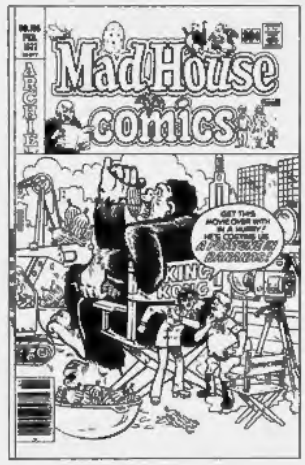
SABRINA, THE TEEN-AGE WITCH No. 37, February. (12/14)

ARCHIE'S TV LAUGHOUT No. 46, February. (12/14)

EVERYTHING'S ARCHIE No. 54, February. (12/21)

MAD HOUSE COMICS No. 106, February. (12/21)

JOSIE AND THE PUSSYCATS No. 94, February. (12/21)



TCR Mailboat

KEVIN KRIEG, Colorado Springs, CO: Sadly, Charlton's demise came as no surprise. Their line has been second rate (with a few exceptions) for as long as I remember and recently even more so. It consisted, towards the end, of well-known King Features characters which have very limited multi-media tie-in potential, Hanna-Barbera cartoon characters, for the most part long cancelled series and FLINTSTONES spin-offs, and a batch of romance, mystery and war books of dubious artistic merit.

What is surprising is that Charlton lasted as long as it did, refusing to go along with what obviously sells. In other words, work similar to Marvel and DC. For unknown reasons, they have steadfastly refused to enter the super-hero field, refused to feature fan in-put, continuity, and in-house promotion. It seems to me that with the many Charlton characters available from the Giordano-edited '60s, that it would be (would have been) highly feasible to reorient the line in this direction: 10 super-hero books, 5 super-team books, 3 mystery books, 2 TV tie-ins, 1 western, 1 try-out, 1 war, 1 romance, 1 team-up and 5 or 6 (or none) of the most popular "funny" books. This would have made up a small group of about 30 titles which would have been very successful if accompanied with adequate promotion.

Gold Key should survive as the sole bastion of other media (read: cartoon) characters. Harvey's and Archie's futures are questionable. Their characters have no other-media tie-ins which are important in the juvenile funny book field. I wouldn't be surprised to see Gold Key pick up what's left of these two groups in a few years. Unless someone changes and becomes a third force in the Marvel-DC battle. Atlas failed and Charlton refused to try. Archie's Red Circle Group never got off the ground but at least for them it's not too late. What I don't understand is why Charlton and Archie can't see what IS popular and what is selling well and making money? Archie has the license to all the old MLJ heroes. Why can't they see where the industry is going and resurrect them before it's too late.

(What marvelous tunnel vision. First of all, Charlton is/was not as stupid as you made them out to be; they TRIED super-heroes -- twice. Both times they bombed. If you consider the low sales their SUCCESSFUL titles had, can you blame them for NOT putting out comics that would surely undersell them? As far as other-media tie-ins on the characters Charlton WAS still using, you seem to forget that a great deal of children's programming is made up of syndicated material in the afternoon time periods -- and most of the Hanna-Barbera stuff does very well in the ratings, especially THE FLINTSTONES. You seem to forget also that POPEYE, CASPER and the many ARCHIE cartoon series are also in syndication.

Your biggest error of reasoning is in your "only super-heroes sell" thinking. First, even DC and Marvel are finding the super-hero market oversaturated; why else the constant cancellations? Second, Archie and Harvey must be doing very well in their respective character categroies, well enough in fact, that they have no desire to enter into competition with DC or Marvel. RICHIE RICH and ARCHIE each appear in more titles (and hence, sell more copies) than SUPERMAN and SPIDER-MAN put together. Also, although Gold Key's are almost impossible to find around here, they seem to be in no danger of going under at the moment.

Your breakdown of what Charlton should have been publishing seems silly to me for a number of reasons, to wit, having only one romance book, one war book and maybe no humor books -- these were Charlton's only strengths. They had the romance market cornered (until DC revived YOUNG LOVE -- which is now the ONLY romance comic left), had three of the still existant eight war books still on the market, and made whatever money on their comics line with their cartoon titles. The only thing that you suggest that I might agree should have been tried would be the super-team book idea; in these days when the team book is selling it just may have worked.

Charlton's big problems had to do with a) their self-distribution, which was not good enough to get them into all the places DC and Marvel dominate; and b) their image as a second rate group, due to their choice of material and their frequently abominable printing. I have the feeling that even if Charlton put out CONAN by Thomas and Buscema it would have failed, just because of the comic group logo on the cover. Not that anything Charlton ever published approached that, although both Thomas and Buscema once worked for them. Charlton's strength did not and never could lie in the fandom area. Their only hope was to corner the non-super-hero areas and provide what DC and Marvel didn't. They couldn't do it. MT)

KIM THOMPSON, Montpellier, FRANCE: Frankly, I like the new layout, although the page numbers' size could be reduced a bit. Also, I hope it was a corrosive sense of irony that prompted you to choose Kirby's CAPTAIN AMURRICA for the "Marvel News" blurb. In a way, I guess Kirby's current product does epitomize the reactionary (artistically speaking, of course) attitude of the comics scene today, but I don't like to be reminded of it. Maybe you can alternate pics of Cap and Nova? Hot damn!

As a sort of answer to your comments on larger sizes for a regular comic books, one thing nobody mentions is the fact that the 48-or-more pagers are invariably poorly printed, with a hell of a lot of smudging and double-printing occuring. Well, maybe not invariably but still enough to almost ruin some books. Look at the THOR ANNUAL, for instance -- terrible. In addition, I loathe squarebindings. It's impossible to lay the book flat on a table without creasing it, it gets worn out much faster, and often displays an unattractive white chunk of the binding of the cover. Igh. Given a choice between one poorly printed 50¢ giant and two 30¢ regulars with good printing, I'll gladly pay the extra ten cents.

If the 48 page 50¢ giants were technically equal to the smaller sizes, I would of course be greatly in favor of them. Artistically brilliant but economically un-

stable features could be slipped in along with top sellers who wouldn't need the extra pages on a regular basis, while those series currently cramped for space (especially supergroup books) could expand comfortably.

It's an idea to conjur with... Tales Of Asgard or Warriors 3 in THOR; Tigra or Moon Knight in WEREWOLF; Silver Surfer in FANTASTIC FOUR; Warlock in CAPTAIN MARVEL; Man-Thing in HOWARD (a switch in time...); Solomon Kane in CONAN; Black Widow solo in DD or CHAMPIONS; Son Of Satan in GHOST RIDER; Blade in DRACULA, Black Panther vs. The Klan in POWER MAN (all by Don McGregor!); Killraven anywhere; Clea in DR. STRANGE; regular 30 page AVENGERS, DEFENDERS, X-MEN and MARVEL TEAM-UP... Enough!

I think DC's dollar books will fail. That bane of the comic book medium, the Casual Reader, just won't go for 'em. Over three times the price of the "regular" books is just poor salesmanship (as is the overemphasis on the $1.00 in the DC logos -- although possibly the appeal of the number "one," as used on the covers of DRACULA will work here as well?); the 48 pagers might succeed if they don't jump to the unwieldy 60¢ price (50¢ is so practical and clear-cut).

Finally, in #130 you stated that Goscinny and Uderzo were the creators of both ASTERIX and LUCKY LUKE. This is false. LUCKY LUKE was created by Maurice de Bevere (a.k.a. Morris); only after more than a dozen books did Goscinny join him as scripter and by then Morris had already invented and established most of the major recurring characters (besides Lucky and Jolly Jumper, the Dalton Brothers and Ran-Tan-Plan, rather well translated into English as Rin Tin Can). Uderzo never touched the character.

Since you mentioned the upcoming film, I have a question: How many of the following French cartoons based upon comic book characters have actually been distributed in the U.S.? ASTERIX THE GAUL, ASTERIX AND CLEOPATRA (the first two Asterix cartoons in their English translations), LE TEMPLE DE SOLEIL and LE LAC AUX REQUINS (two TIN TIN cartoons; the others were live action), LUCKY LUKE, and the newest one out, LA FLUTE A SIX SCHTROUMPFS.

Best wishes from across the ocean and in the words of a Good Person, hang in there!

(Thanks for the letter and I'm sorry the bit about LUCKY LUKE took so long to correct. I'm glad that's cleared up. I have heard rumors that one or both of the TIN TIN cartoons actually got out in the U.S., but I've never seen any of them advertised.

The page numbers were too big, you're right, and we've fixed that. The pictures in the boxes will (theoretically) be changed each month on those companies that we have enough black and white illos to use. No editorializing intended.

You overlook the fact that many 30¢ books have the exact same poor printing as the 50¢ers; it just seems that World Color Press in Sparta gets poorer every year. If it's not the double printing it's the deterioration of their plastic plates and hence, fine line detail -- and if it's not that it's the progressively thinner newsprint being used. As inflation continues they continually try to find cheaper ways to do things (and they do, or we'd be paying 50¢ for a 32 pager right now) which can't help printing quality. Sometimes it's like trying to read the comic through a dirty window.

Even if the 50¢ books become the norm (which I doubt) Marvel has enough trouble stringing six books a year together per year without reprints at the normal size. Unless they halved the size of their line, I don't see how they could handle the extra work. And some of those series are better left dead, I'd say. MT)

ROB DOORACK, White Plains, NY: In TCR #135 Charles Ryan asked about pay rates in the comics industry. Perhaps I can enlighten him somewhat. I have been told by a "reliable source" that pencillers at Marvel earn anywhere from about $40.00 a page to $70.00. Each artist's individual rate is of course determined by such factors as senority, quality, whether it is full pencil or just breakdowns, and whether there is a contract involved or it's freelance work. I suppose when art is returned to the artist that this can also be considered additional salary as they can be resold to fans. A popular artist could earn more from resale of the pages than he was paid for drawing them.

I have no idea what the rate for art is at National or for the writers and inkers at each company. As for Charlton, an artist who worked for them for a short time said he was paid about $45.00 a page for pencils, inks and lettering.

(Thanks for the info, Rob. Tony Isabella, in a letter of a few weeks ago said the following: "Comic writers make anywhere from $5.00 a page to $35.00 a page. The former is only the case (thank God!) at one company; the latter only applies to certain projects at one of the more major companies. I would assume that NATIONAL LAMPOON or MAD run higher, but I couldn't say for sure." I hope that that satisfies most of the curious out there. MT)

Comment

Back in 1966, BATMAN went on the air and changed the course of comics history. It also changed the comics containing BATMAN adventures, causing, I'd say, the backlash that brought about the avenging character popular until a few years back. Arguably, BATMAN was at its best until the show came on, at its worst when it copied the show's format, and never the same again afterward. Alfred was resurrected (in an ingenious way, as The Outsider) BECAUSE he was in the show.

Today, the same thing has happened. SHAZAM! has been altered considerably to fit the TV format and now WONDER WOMAN has undergone a similar change, Steve Trevor was resurrected (unnecessarily, as it turns out, since they're going back to the Earth II WWII format) and the whole comic has undergone its umpteenth time in the last ten years. The latest TV creation that will undoubtedly be echoed in the comic -- Wonder Girl -- marks the epitome of what I've come to resent.

Look at it this way: What if the comics did an ALL IN THE FAMILY comic with Archie Bunker's OTHER daughter? Would that be any less of an abomination? - Andy Hildebrand

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Western News

Whitman has issued four more in the series of GIANT COMICS TO COLOR: Spider-Man in "Weather Forecast: Danger," Captain America in "The Challenge Of Super Sport," Batman and Robin in "Four Birds Of A Feather" vs. The Penguin, and Superman in "Brainiac s Biggest Plot. The Marvel books are pretty bad artwise and silly to boot; both DCs are by Nelson Bridwell and Tenny Henson and are OK.

Whitman has also issued two more in their $1.95 reprint series: RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT and STAR TREK: The Enterprise Logs Volume II, which reprints #9-18 of the Gold Key comic. Both contain 224 pages.

Et Al

Jerry Bails has issued the final volume in the WHO'S WHO OF AMERICAN COMIC BOOKS series, and this one is really worth the money. Not only is the alphabet finished up from "T through Z" but there are 34 pages of additions and corrections to the first three volumes, a chronology of Comic Book Shops and a listing of the people who worked in each, a list of pen names and who they are, a chronology of all the comic book publishers ever and a whole bunch of solutions to the mysteries credit nuts like me wonder about. (For example: Who is the only man to have drawn comics and then ended up appearing as a starring CHARACTER in two comic books based upon television programs? Buy the volume and look under the initials "K. L." and you'll find out.) Unhappily, Jerry says this will be the last fanzine project he'll ever publish, and the credits of those artists and writers who only worked in the black and white magazines had to be left out. Perhaps some enterprising member of the Editorial Advisory Board (besides me, I mean) will have the ambition to finish up where Jerry left off, and also do corrections for the fourth volume (some do still exist). In any case, you'll find an ad for the new volume in this issue and anyone who is at all serious about comics and collecting owes it to themselves to buy the entire set. (To show you how extensive the credits are -- even our own David Finger gets an entry!)

Thomas F. Schweitzer and the Richard F. Outcault Committee of the Queens Historical Society (Kingsland House-Museum, 143-35 37th Avenue, Flushing, Long Island, NY 11354) are campaigning for the U.S. Postal Service to honor the father of the comic strip" by issuing a 1978 commemorative stamp, fifty years after his death. They urge anyone who feels that this should be done to write to their Congressmen and Senators to tell them why.

Gold Key News

MICKEY MOUSE will go monthly with #171, April, 1977 on sale in February.

There will be five issues of WALT DISNEY SHOWCASE in 1977. #40 will feature the adaptation of Disney's new cartoon feature, THE RESCUERS, while the July issue will have HERBIE GOES TO MONTE CARLO. Both #38, January and #39, April, will feature MICKEY AND THE SLEUTH.

Coming Comics

Walt Disney DONALD DUCK No. 180, February. This issue contains reprints. (12/2)

Walt Disney CHIP 'N' DALE No. 44, February. This one is reprints too. (12/2)

Walt Disney MICKEY MOUSE No. 169, February. Also reprints. (12/2)

YOSEMITE SAM AND BUGS BUNNY No. 42, February. This one's all new. (12/2)

THE OCCULT FILES OF DOCTOR SPEKTOR No. 24, February. This is the final issue and it's all-new. (12/2)

BULLWINKLE No. 15, March. All new Rocky and Bullwinkle adventures. (12/2)

THE LONE RANGER No. 28, March, 1977. The masked man s last stand is also all-new. (12/2)

Walt Disney UNCLE SCROOGE No. 137, March. Carl Barks reprints. (12/9)

Walt Disney SCAMP No. 33, February. Another Disney reprint issue. (12/9)

LOONEY TUNES No. 12, February. 99% new stuff. (12/9)

BORIS KARLOFF TALES OF MYSTERY No. 73, February. New material. (12/9)

FAT ALBERT No. 17, February. New material here too. (12/9)

LITTLE MONSTERS No. 38, February. New stuff plus a reprint page. (12/9)

UNDERDOG No. 11, February. New stories. (12/9)

BUGS BUNNY No. 181, February. New plus one page of reprints. (12/23)

TWEETY AND SYLVESTER No. 66, February. All new stories. (12/23)

WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES No. 437, February. 13 pages are new and 12 are reprint. (12/23)

BEEP BEEP, THE ROAD RUNNER No. 62, February, 1977. Mostly new stuff. (12/23)

DAFFY DUCK No. 106, February. New, with one reprint page. (12/23)

STAR TREK No. 43, February. Another new adventure of the Enterprise. (12/23)

RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT! No. 68, February. New stories. (12/23)

Continuity Associates

Carl Potts and Terry Austin are doing some illustrations for Visual's WEIRD HEROES #6... Russ Heath is doing a G.I. COMBAT cover... Continuity did the movie poster for DEATH PROMISE... The promo comic that Neal Adams did for SUPER-HERO VITAMINS is 24 pages... Bruce Patterson is doing some work for SCREW and CHERI magazines... Continuity is doing the art for a series of Mego puzzles and toys... Howard Chaykin is doing a Solomon Kane story for SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN... Frank Cirocco is doing a story for STAR*REACH, plotted by Neal Adams... Bob Wiacek inked an Irv Novick BATMAN story... With the SUPERMAN-MUHAMMED ALI book fully written, Neal Adams is now working on the art... Lastly, Russ Heath has done a story for Warren which has been called "One of his best jobs ever" around Continuity.

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Visual Publications

That mysterious book from BPVP is a collection of the ONE YEAR AFFAIR, the Byron Preiss-Ralph Reese strip from NATLAMP. The book has been delayed until November and costs $2.50 from Workman Publishing. Further information on the book may be obtained by writing Jennifer Rogers, Workman Publishing Co., 231 East 51 Street, New York, NY 10022. For orders, add 50¢ postage (total price through the mail: $3.00). Pillowcases featuring the two characters are also available.

BPVP is working on a new project with Gray Morrow for a possible 1977 launching.

Joe Zucker, cover artist for THE TOLKEIN COMPANION, is doing some work for BPVP. Craig Russell and Jim Steranko are contributing some art for WEIRD HEROES.

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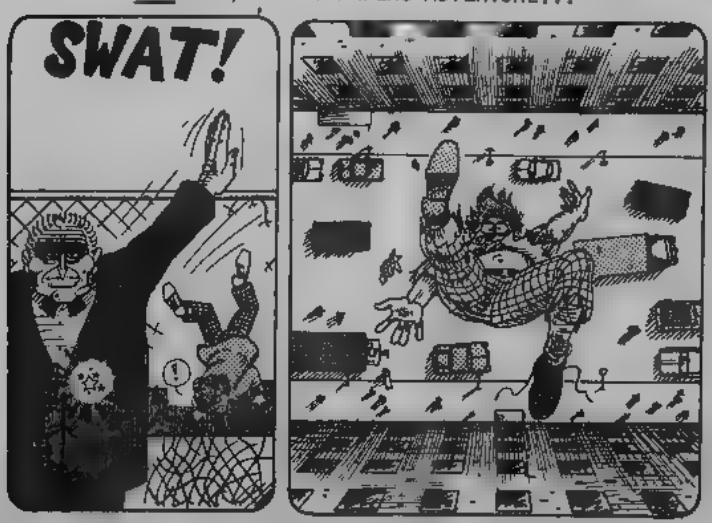

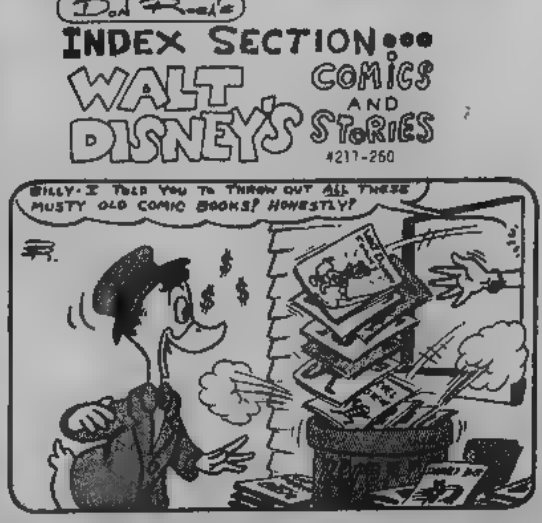
Don Rosa's
INDEX SECTION...
WALT DISNEY'S COMICS AND STORIES
#211-260
BILLY- I TOLD YOU TO THROW OUT ALL THESE MUSTY OLD COMIC BOOKS! HONESTLY?

ST Pocket Checklist

December 1976

Marvel

- ☐ THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #166
- ☐ THE AVENGERS #157
- ☐ THE BLACK PANTHER #2
- ☐ CAPTAIN AMERICA #207
- ☐ CAPTAIN MARVEL #49
- ☐ THE CHAMPIONS #12
- ☐ CONAN THE BARBARIAN #72
- ☐ CRAZY #23
- ☐ DAREDEVIL #143
- ☐ THE DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU #31
- ☐ THE DEFENDERS #45
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- ☐ THE INCREDIBLE HULK #209
- ☐ THE INVADERS #14
- ☐ IRON MAN #96
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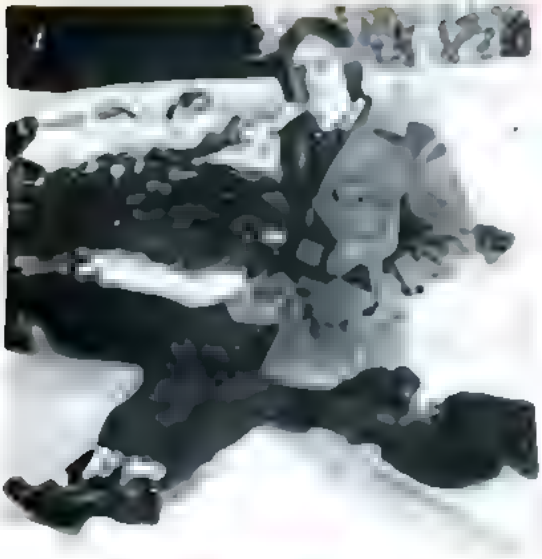

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Set L: Sets A,B,C and K (all issues)	$95

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#27,30,36 - $1 each; #54,57,58,60-62,65,66,68, 69 - 75¢ each; #72,73,78-94 - 50¢ each; #96-99, 101-105,107-109,115-121,123-126 - $1 each; #127-141 - 75¢ each; #142-225 - $1 each.

Note: Issues #1 through 45 were 16 pages each, 46 through 51 were 20 pages each, 52 through 94 were 24 pages each, 95 through 126 were 48 pages each, 127 through 223 were 40 pages each, and 224 & 225 were 32 pages each.

The following back issues are out of print and we only have a handful of each left. The high prices reflect the fact that once we sell these copies there will not be any left for any price. The five issues listed at the end are totally sold out.

#2 - $8	#18 - $4	#38 - $3	#59 - $4
#3 - $4	#19 - $6	#39 - $8	#63 - $2
#4 - $3	#20 - $3	#40 - $12	#64 - $2
#5 - $4	#21 - $6	#41 - $4	#67 - $2
#6 - $5	#22 - $4	#42 - $8	#70 - $2
#7 - $6	#23 - $5	#43 - $3	#71 - $2
#8 - $5	#24 - $8	#44 - $6	#74 - $2
#9 - $3	#25 - $10	#45 - $6	#75 - $5
#10 - $12	#26 - $4	#46 - $3	#76 - $2
#11 - $3	#28 - $3	#47 - $3	#77 - $3
#12 - $6	#29 - $9	#48 - $2	#100 - $4
#13 - $3	#31 - $2	#49 - $5	#111 - $3
#14 - $5	#32 - $2	#50 - $3	#112 - $3
#15 - $4	#33 - $8	#51 - $3	#113 - $3
#16 - $5	#34 - $3	#52 - $3	#114 - $3
#17 - $2	#35 - $3	#55 - $3	#122 - $4
	#37 - $10	#56 - $3	

Issues #1,53,95,106 and 110 are all sold.

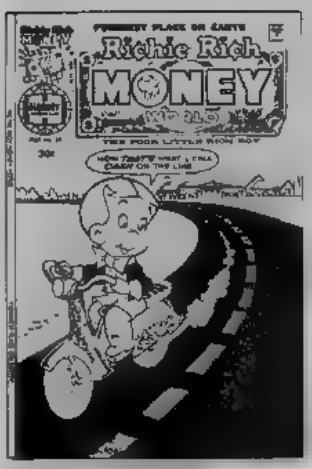
GUARDIAN BACK ISSUES:

SETS:

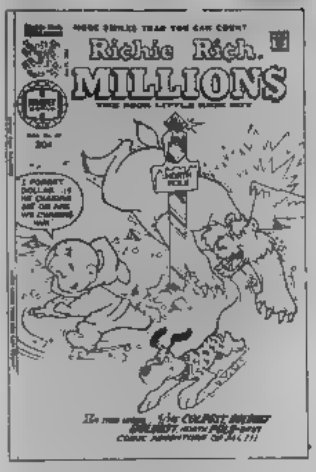
Set R: #1,3-25	$11
Set S: #26-50	$11
Set T: #51-75	$11
Set U: #76-100	$11
Set V: #101-125	$11
Set W: #126-146	$9
Set X: #1,3-50	$20
Set Y: #1,3-100	$35
Set Z: #1,3-146	$52

INDIVIDUAL ISSUES:
#1 is $1, and #3 through 146 are 50¢ each.

Note: Issue #2 is completely sold out. #146 was the final issue.



Harvey Coming Comics



RICHIE RICH VAULTS OF MYSTERY No. 15, March. (11/25)

SPOOKY No. 155, March. (11/25)

RICHIE RICH BILLIONS No. 15, March. 48 pages for 40¢. (11/25)

RICHIE RICH ZILLIONZ No. 2, March. (11/25)

RICHIE RICH GEMS No. 16, March. (12/2)

HOT STUFF No. 139, March. (12/2)

RICHIE RICH MONEY WORLD No. 28, March. (12/2)

SUPER RICHIE No. 8, March. 48 pages for 40¢. (12/2)

SAD SACK No. 255, March. (12/9)

RICHIE RICH FORTUNES No. 33, March. (12/9)

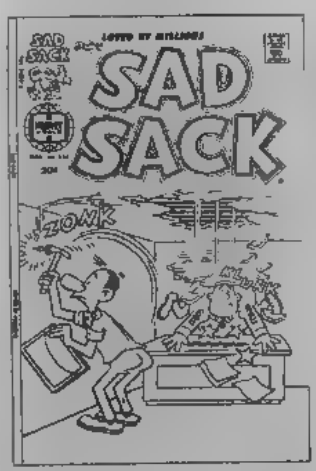
RICHIE RICH MILLIONS No. 82, March. (12/9)

RICHIE RICH SUCCESS No. 73, March. 48 pages for 40¢. (12/9)

RICHIE RICH RICHES No. 29, March. (12/16)

RICHIE RICH No. 152, March. (12/16)

RICHIE RICH DOLLARS AND CENTS No. 78, March. 48 pages for 40¢. (12/16)



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Marvel Coming Comics

DAREDEVIL No. 143, March. There's a startling turn of events as DD belts Mr. Hyde into next year in "'Hyde and Go Seek,' Sayeth The Cobra" by Marv Wolfman, Bob Brown and Jim Mooney. The cover is by Dave Cockrum. (11/30)

THE INVADERS No. 14, March. In the first case of actual comics dual-citizenry (both Marvel and DC), The Invaders thunder is stolen by The Crusaders, a group of British super-heroes (mentioned in our news section) as they all investigate something rotten in England in part one of "Calling -- The Crusaders", by Roy Thomas, Frank Robbins and Frank Springer. The cover is by Jack Kirby and Joe Sinnott. (11/30)

MARVEL TWO-IN-ONE No. 25, March. The Thing and Iron Fist get involved with a case that could be subtitled "The Menacing Apostrophes" -- as they face S'Ara S'Harn, evil

counterpart to K'Un-Lun in a story that is actually titled "A Tale Of Two Countries" by Marv Wolfman, Ron Wilson and Sam Grainger. The cover is by Jack Kirby and Joe Sinnott. (11/30)

TOMB OF DRACULA No. 54, March. Drac's son is about to be born -- on Christmas Eve! "Twas The Night Before Christmas" is by Marv Wolfman, Gene Colan and Tom Palmer. The cover is by Colan and Palmer. (11/30)

KID COLT OUTLAW No. 216. (11/30)

MS. MARVEL No. 3, March. Ms. Marvel must face The Destructor and the Doomsday Man in "The Lady's Not For Killing" by Gerry Conway, Chris Claremont, John Buscema and Joe Sinnott. The cover is by Al Milgrom and Joe Sinnott. (11/30)

MARVEL S GREATEST COMICS No. 69, March. The FF and Dr. Doom in Latveria in "The Power And The Pride" (catchy title, eh?) by Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Joe Sinnott, from FF #87. The cover is by Kirby and Sinnott. (11/30)

MARVEL DOUBLE FEATURE No. 21, March. Captain America and Black Panther are surprised by the return of Zemo in stories from TALES OF SUSPENSE #98,99: "The Claws Of The Panther" by Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Joe Sinnott, and "The Man Who Lived Twice" by Lee, Kirby and Syd Shores. The cover is by Kirby and Sinnott. (11/30)

WEIRD WONDER TALES No. 21, March. Dr. Druid is featured in "I Discovered Gorgilla" by Stan Lee, Jack Kirby and Dick Ayers (from somewhere we can't determine), plus "Beware Of The Giants" by Lee and Steve Ditko, and "Behind The Dreadful

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SPIDER MAN
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
30¢
166
MAR
The AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
IF THE LIZARD DOESN'T GET YOU, I WILL!!
THEN STEGRON WILL!!!
IT'S A HOLIDAY HOLOCAUST! WE CALL IT... THE WAR OF THE REPTILE-MEN!
-AND SPIDEY IS CAUGHT IN THE MIDDLE!

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Door" by Lee and Colan, are reprinted. The cover is by Ernie Chan. (11/30)

THE RAMPAGING HULK No. 1, March. This book will concern The Hulk's adventures -- heretofore untold -- from 1963. Hulk finds himself enmeshed in an alien conspiracy in Rome in "The Krylorian Conspiracy" by Doug Moench, Walt Simonson and Alfredo Alcala. The backup reintroduces Bloodstone as he has an adventure on the high seas in "Trail Of The Starstone" by John D. Warner, John Buscema and Rudy Nebres. The cover is by Ken Barr. (12/2)

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN No. 166, March. Spidey vs. The Lizard! Spidey vs. Stegron! The Lizard vs. Stegron! Dinosaurs running amok in Central Park! And this is the Christmas issue! "War Of The Reptile Men" is by Len Wein, Ross Andru, and Mike Esposito. The cover is by John Romita and Frank Giacoia. (12/7)

CAPTAIN AMERICA No. 207, March. Cap meets Donna Marie (wonder if she's a Mormon?) who's a possible new love interest, and continues his battle with The Swine in "Tiger And The Swine" by Jack Kirby and Frank Giacoia. The cover is by Kirby and Giacoia. (12/7)

THOR No. 257, March. The origin of the world-ship Levianon, the secret of the creature called SPORR, and the return of The Grey Gargoyle are all featured in "Death, Thou Shalt Die" by Len Wein, John Buscema and Tony DeZuniga. The cover is by Jack Kirby and Joe Sinnott. (12/7)

MASTER OF KUNG FU No. 50, March. Shang Chi gets his guns and shoots Fu Man-

chu in "Part VI (Fu Manchu): The Dreamslayer" by Doug Moench, Paul Gulacy and Pablo Marcos. The cover is by Dave Cockrum. (12/7)

RED SONJA No. 2, March. Sonja travels to the city of Benzia to do battle with two sorcerers in an underground maze of mirrors in "The Demon Of The Maze" by Roy Thomas and Clara Noto (a screenwriter who will be writing this magazine with Roy), and the art of Frank Thorne. The cover is by Thorne. (12/7)

THE ETERNALS No. 9, March. The Reject battles Karkas, and Sprite, the Light and Lively Eternal, is introduced. "The Killing Machine" is by Jack Kirby and Mike Royer. The cover is by Kirby and Royer. (12/7)

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES No. 63, March. Reprinted from HULK #109 and guest-starring Ka-Zar and Zabu is "The Monster And The Man-Beast" by Stan Lee, Frank Giacoia (layouts), Herb Trimpe and John Severin. The cover is by Trimpe and Severin. (12/7)

MASTER OF KUNG F
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
30¢
50
MAR
THE HANDS OF SHANG-CHI, MASTER OF KUNG FU
THIS IS THE MOMENT EARTH DIES! ONLY SHANG-CHI CAN PREVENT IT, BUT--
I I CANNOT SHOOT...
I CANNOT KILL MY OWN FATHER, FU MANCHU!

MARVEL TRIPLE ACTION No. 34, March. From AVENGERS #42 is "The Plan -- And The Power!" by Roy Thomas, John Buscema and George Roussos. (12/7)

CRAZY No. 23, February. (12/14)

THE SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN No. 17, February. This issue features the second chapter of the "People Of The Black Circle" by Roy Thomas, John Buscema and Alfredo Alcala, the conclusion of the "Worms Of The Earth" adaptation by Thomas and Tim Conrad, a Bran Mak Morn tale, and the final chapter of Thomas and Walt Simonson's Hyborian Age strip. This book will go monthly as of #19 and the price will remain $1.00. (12/14)

PLANET OF THE APES No. 29, February. The final issue of POTA features only one

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story, "To Ride The Death Winds" by Doug Moench and Tom Sutton, and the rest is made up of articles. The cover is by Malcolm McN. (12/14)

DOC SAVAGE No. 7, March. The penultimate issue features Doc and Co. amid a lost South American jungle where they learn the secret of a race of extraterrestrials in a story called "The Mind Mutations" by Doug Moench, Val Mayerik and Tony DeZuniga. The cover is by Ken Barr. (12/14)

THE INCREDIBLE HULK No. 209, March. Bruce Banner gets a new job and The Hulk fights the Absorbing Man in "The Absorbing Man Is Out For Blood" by Len Wein, Sal Buscema and Joe Staton. Next issue, Ernie Chan will ink. The cover is by Ed Hannigan and Frank Giacoia. (12/14)

THE AVENGERS No. 157, March. Wanda and Wonder Man go Christmas shopping, The Vision feels plastic, the Avengers get beaten and in the end, The Vision stands alone in "Ghost Of Stone" by Gerry Conway, Don Heck and Pablo Marcos. The cover is by Jack Kirby and Joe Sinnott. (12/14)

CONAN THE BARBARIAN No. 72, March. Conan and Belit return to her home to kill the usurper uncle in "Vengeance In Asgalun by Roy Thomas, John Buscema and Ernie Chan. The cover is by Buscema and Chan. (12/14)

THE DEFENDERS No. 45, March. The female Defenders battle the male Defenders to free Doctor Strange in "We Must Free The Defenders" by David Kraft, Roger Slifer (based upon a Gerry Conway plot), Keith Giffen and Klaus Janson. Maybe we'll find out why Valkyrie dumped her new costume. The cover is by Jack Kirby, Joe Sinnott and John Romita. (12/14)

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
30¢ 12 MAR
HERCULES! BLACK WIDOW! ANGEL! GHOST RIDER! ICEMAN!
THE CHAMPIONS
HAIL, OLYMPIAN! NEITHER HUMAN NOR DEMI-GOD CAN STAND BEFORE THE MIGHT OF THE ZOUNDS!
FROM BEYOND THE STARS THE STRANGER STRIKES!

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OMEGA THE UNKNOWN No. 7, March. Omega finally speaks to James Michael, plus the Man-Brute returns with a new name in "And Then Came Blockbuster" by Scott Edelman and Jim Mooney. The cover is by Dave Cockrum. (12/14)

BLACK PANTHER No. 2, March. The Black Panther celebrates the birthday of "The Six Million Year Man" and spends the issue blowing out the candles in a story by Jack Kirby and Mike Royer. The cover is by Kirby and Royer. (12/14)

POWER MAN No. 41, March. Cage meets The Gold Bug, a criminal who steals only gold, and Thunderbolt, a new hero -- Bill Garver from BLACK PANTHER (don't ask US where; we can't find him) -- in "Thunderbolt And Goldbug" by Marv Wolfman, Lee Elias and Tom Palmer. The cover is by Ernie Chan. (12/14)

MARVEL TALES No. 77, March. Spidey appears in reprint form from that infamous issue, #96 (which originally ran without Code approval, but will have it now) "--And Now The Goblin!" by Stan Lee, Gil Kane and John Romita. The cover is by Romita. (12/14)

RAWHIDE KID No. 138, March. (12/14)

NOVA No. 7, March. Mega-Man is introduced, Nova goes berserk in New York and is dragged to the orbiting space ship of Nova Prime by Diamondhead, Condor and Powerhouse in "War In Space" by Marv Wolfman, Sal Buscema and Tom Palmer. The cover is by Jack

Kirby and Joe Sinnott. (12/14)

THE CHAMPIONS No. 12, March. Black Goliath and Stilt-Man show up in this sequel to MARVEL TEAM-UP #55, continuing the story of the strange box. "Did Somebody Say The Stranger?" is by Bill Mantlo, John Byrne and Bob Layton. The cover is by Dave Cockrum. (12/14)

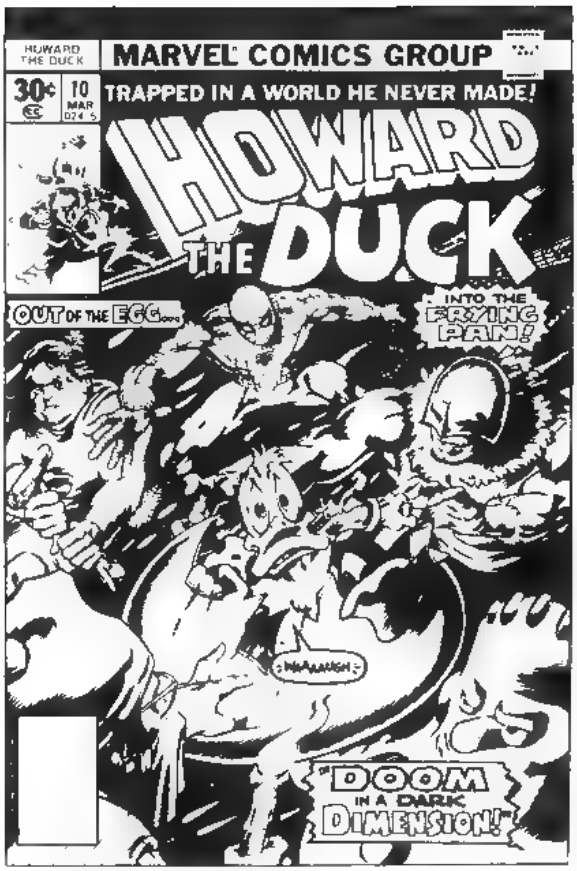
LOGAN'S RUN No. 3, March. Logan escapes the city and discovers the fate awaiting anyone who does in Sanctuary?!" by David Kraft, George Perez and Klaus Janson. The cover is by Perez and Janson. (12/14)

CAPTAIN MARVEL
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
30¢ 49 MAR
MARVEL'S SPACEBORN SUPERHERO!
THE NEW CAPTAIN MARVEL
UNLEASHED THIS TIME! THE POWER AND THE FURY OF RONAN THE ACCUSER!
ASYLUM EARTH!

FANTASTIC FOUR No. 180, March. The real Reed Richards, trapped in the Negative Zone, finds he must team up with Annihilus to battle the new ruler of that eerie area, while back on Earth, a different foursome than usual are trying to keep the army from hauling away the robot defeated last issue. "Side-By-Side With Annihilus?" is the result of the creative co-operation of Roy Thomas, Ron Wilson and Joe Sinnott inside, and Jack Kirby on the cover. Next issue Len Wein takes over the scripting. (12/21)

CAPTAIN MARVEL No. 49, March. The return and defeat of Ronan The Accuser -- the defeat of The Cheetah -- the second destruction of Sentry #459 -- "Asylum Earth!" contains all of this and more by Scott Edelman, Al Milgrom and Terry Austin. The cover is by Al Milgrom and Steve Leialoha. (12/21)

MARVEL TEAM-UP No. 55, March. Spider-Man is rescued in deep space by Warlock as they battle The Stranger (fresh from THE CHAMPIONS) in "Spider, Spider On The Moon


HOWARD THE DUCK
MARVEL COMICS GROUP
30¢ 10 MAR
TRAPPED IN A WORLD HE NEVER MADE!
HOWARD THE DUCK
OUT OF THE EGG...
INTO THE FRYING PAN!
"DOOM IN A DARK DIMENSION!"

by Bill Mantlo, John Byrne and Dave Hunt. The cover is by Dave Cockrum. (12/21)

IRON MAN No. 96, March. The final defeat of Ultimo is striven for in 'Only A Friend Can Save Him" by Gerry Conway, Bill Mantlo, George Tuska and Don Perlin. The cover is by Al Milgrom and Jack Abel. (12/21)

WEREWOLF BY NIGHT No. 43, March. Iron Man continues his guest-starring role in Trianniman Lives" by Doug Moench and Don Perlin. The cover is by Ernie Chan. (12/21)

SGT. FURY No. 139, March. Reprinted from #37 is In The Desert... To Die! by Roy Thomas, Dick Ayers and John Tartaglione. The cover is by Gil Kane. (12/21)

HOWARD THE DUCK No. 10, March. Howard reminisces about his past adventures and realizes that no normal duck should be able to withstand the strain, so begins to have a mental breakdown in "Swan Song Of The Living Dead Duck" by Steve Gerber, Gene Colan and Steve Leialoha. The cover is by Colan and Leialoha. (12/21)

THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN No. 4, March. The Vulture wants revenge on Spider-Man, but has reckoned without the interference of Morgan -- a mobster he's crossed who sends out The Hit Man to get him in "The Vulture Is A Bird Of Prey," the first of a two-parter by Archie Goodwin, Sal Buscema and Mike Esposito. The cover is by Dave Cockrum. (12/21)

2001: A SPACE ODYSSEY No. 4, March. The Monolith makes a drastic mistake in 'Wheels Of Death" by Jack Kirby and Mike Royer. The cover is by Kirby and Royer. (12/21)

THE DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU No. 32, February. Perhaps a better name for this magazine would be "Dead Hands Of Kung Fu" as this is the last issue. Misty Knight and Colleen Wing run around the waterfront of Hong Kong in search of the killer of Colleen's grandfather, a gun-running, drug-smuggling mercenary in "Daughters Of The Dragon" by Chris Claremont and Marshall Rogers. The backup is "The Tiger Sons Must Die" by Bill Mantlo, Joe Staton and Sonny Trinidad. Malcolm McN did the cover. (12/21)

DC Coming Comics

THE FLASH No. 247, March. Now monthly, Flash finds himself embroiled in the 64th century antics of a certain arch-magician in "The Mad, Mad Earth Of Abra Kadabra" by Cary Bates, Irv Novick and Frank McLaughlin. The cover is by Rich Buckler and Frank Springer. (12/2)

WELCOME BACK, KOTTER No. 3, March. One of the original Sweathogs shows up in "The Return Of Angie Berelli" by Tony Isabella, Ric Estrada and Bob Oksner. The cover is by Oksner. (12/2)

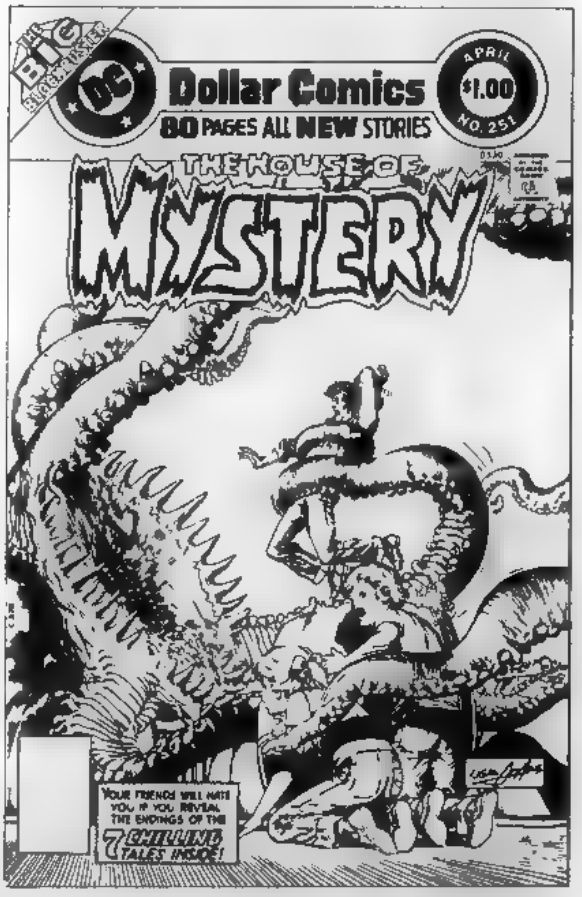
SGT. ROCK No. 302, March. (12/2)

GHOSTS No. 52, March-April. (12/2)

WEIRD WAR TALES No. 51, March. Following a Paul Levitz-Nestor Redondo intro page,

THE WORLD'S GREATEST SUPER-HEROES!
50¢
NO 140
MAR
GIANT
JUSTICE LEAGUE of AMERICA
A NEW DOUBLE-LENGTH THRILLER!
COME ON, JUSTICE LEAGUERS! WE'VE GOT TO RESCUE GREEN LANTERN!
NO! LET MANHUNTER TAKE ME!
I'M GUILTY OF THE MOST DREADFUL CRIME IN THE UNIVERSE!

there is "Secret Weapon" by Jack Oleck and Bill Draut, "A Canterbury Tail" by Levitz, Jack Harris, Marshall Rogers and Terry


BIG SUPER-HERO
Dollar Comics
80 PAGES ALL NEW STORIES
APRIL
$1.00
NO. 251
THE HOUSE OF MYSTERY
YOUR FRIENDS WILL HATE YOU IF YOU REVEAL THE ENDINGS OF THE 7 CHILLING TALES INSIDE!

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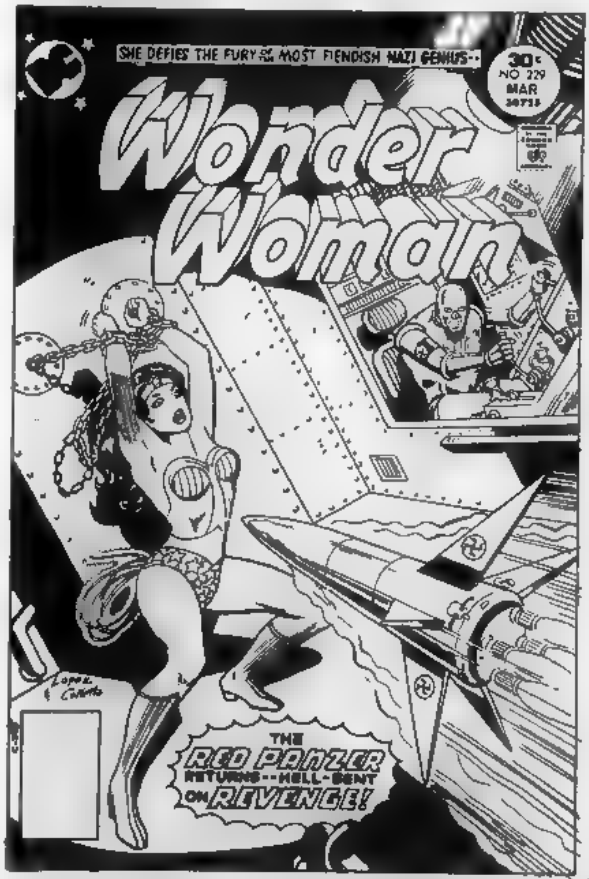
Austin, and "Project V" by Bob Rozakis, Bill Draut and Bob Wiacek. The cover is by Joe Kubert. (12/7)



KARATE KID No. 7, March-April. Karate Kid's landlady is dead and the police think he did it in "Pandemonium... Panic... PULSAR" by Barry Jameson, Ric Estrada and Joe Staton. The cover is by Mike Grell. (12/7)

SUPERMAN No. 309, March. Superman attempts to find out why everything he knows is wrong in part two of the incredible delusion, "Blind Hero's Bluff" by Gerry Conway, Jose Garcia-Lopez and Frank Springer. The cover is by Garcia-Lopez and Bob Oksner. (12/7)

BATMAN No. 285, March. Someone swipes Christmas -- and the only one who notices is Batman in "Mystery Of Christmas Lost" by David V. Reed and Romeo Tanghal. The cover is by Jim Aparo. (12/9)

RICHARD DRAGON, KUNG FU FIGHTER No. 14, March-April. Dragon is really in hot water when he meets up with "The Man Who

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Studied With Bruce Lee" by Denny O'Neil and Ric Estrada. The cover is by Rich Buckler and Frank Springer. (12/9)

JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA No. 140, March. A full-lengther this time includes the return of the new Kirby Manhunter in "No Man Escapes The Manhunter" by Steve Englehart, Dick Dillin and Frank McLaughlin. Plus, a new feature begins, "100 Issues Ago In The JLA" which will be in every issue. The cover is by Rich Buckler and Frank McLaughlin. (12/9)

OUR FIGHTING FORCES No. 172. Another adventure of The Losers plus a solo tale of one of them by Bob Kanigher, George Evans and E.R. Cruz. The cover is by Joe Kubert. (12/14)

JONAH HEX No. 1, March-April. In his own book, Jonah initiates "Vengeance For A Fall-

en Gladiator in a story by Mike Fleisher and Jose Luis Garcia-Lopez. The cover is by Garcia-Lopez. (12/14)

SECRET SOCIETY OF SUPER-VILLAINS No. 6, March-April. Captain Comet is intent on breaking up the SSSV but must do battle with Captain Cold, Captain Boomerang and Captain Stingaree to do so in "Captains Cataclysmic' by Bob Rozakis, Rich Buckler and Bob Layton. The cover is by Rich Buckler and Frank Mc Laughlin. Black Canary guest stars. (12/14)

SHAZAM! No. 28, March-April. Captain Marvel is in Boston and must contend with "The Return Of Black Adam" in this issue by Nelson Bridwell and Kurt Schaffenberger. The cover is by Schaffenberger. (12/16)

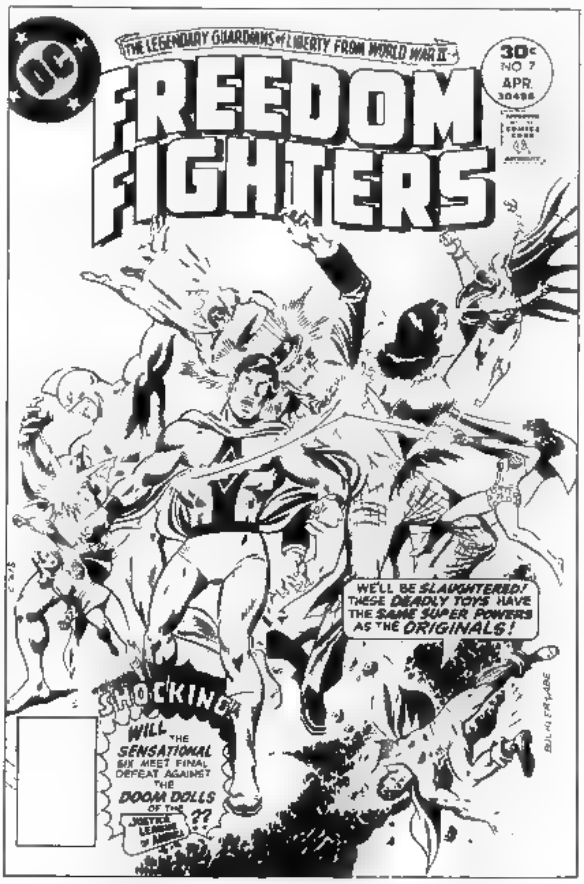
HOUSE OF MYSTERY No. 251, March-April). The first dollar issue will feature an intro by Paul Kupperberg and Romeo Tanghal and the following stories: "Return Of The Vampire by Jack Oleck and Franc Reyes; "The Collector" by Davd V. Reed and Wally Wood, "Ghostly Games" by Steve Skeates, Ernie Chua and Bill Draut; "Fear Wore Two Faces" by George Kashdan and Jess Jodloman; 'Bride Of The Pharoah" by Maxene Fabe; "A House Is Not A Haunt" by Paul Levitz, Mike Uslan and Quico Redondo; plus humor pages and other special features. The cover was by Jose Garcia-Lopez and Berni Wrightson until Neal Adams redrew the whole thing. (12/14)

THE SUPERMAN FAMILY No. 182, March-April. It's $1.00 for Jimmy, Lois and Supergirl (and a host of others) and it starts with Jimmy Olsen in "Death On Ice" by Bill Dennehy, Kurt Schaffenberger and Vince Colletta, and Reporter With The Radar Mind' by Cary Bates, Schaffenberger and Colletta.

Supergirl is featured in 'The Deadly Treasure Of Mars" by Jack Harris, Mike Vosburg and Colletta, Lois Lane stars in "Crime Takes A Fall" by Bill Kunkel and Jose Delbo, Superbaby gets his own feature with "Superbaby's Alien Pet' by Nelson Bridwell and John Calnan, plus there's a new World Of Krypton story, "The Stranger' by Paul Kupperberg, Mike Nasser and Dan Green, plus some special features. The cover was by Curt Swan and Kurt Schaffenberger; now it's by Swan and Neal Adams. (12/14)

G.I. COMBAT No. 200, March. The bicentennial issue features The Haunted Tank crew teamed up with Sgt. Rock, Johnny Cloud, Capt. Storm and Gunner and Sarge in "The Tank That Died Twice" by Bob Kanigher and Sam Glanzman. The cover is by Joe Kubert. (12/21)

THE WITCHING HOUR No. 69, March. This issue will feature three stories by the likes of Gerry Talaoc. The cover is by someone, I'm sure. (12/21)


THE LEGENDARY GUARDIANS OF LIBERTY FROM WORLD WAR II
FREEDOM FIGHTERS
30¢
NO 7
APR
WE'LL BE SLAUGHTERED! THESE DEADLY TOYS HAVE THE SAME SUPER POWERS AS THE ORIGINALS!
SHOCKING
WILL THE SENSATIONAL SIX MEET FINAL DEFEAT AGAINST THE DOOM DOLLS OF THE ??

SUPERBOY No. 225, March. Paul Levitz takes over the scripting and Jim Sherman the art as Wildfire is inducted as Legion leader of 2977 in "And Who Shall Lead Them." Plus, Sun Boy, Timber Wolf and Princess Projectra are featured in "A Matter Of Priorities by Levitz, Mike Nasser and Bob Wiacek, who also inked the first story. The cover is by Mike Grell. (12/21)

KOBRA No. 7, March-April. In the final issue (but not final appearance), Jason Burr and Kobra battle each other for their lives in "The Lazarus Conspiracy" by Marty Pasko, Mike Nasser and Joe Rubinstein. The cover is by Nasser. (12/23)

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THE BATMAN FAMILY No. 10, March-April. Batgirl teams up with her namesake predecessor Batwoman to battle The Cavalier and the Killer Moth in "Those Were The Bad Old Days" by Bob Rozakis, Bob Brown and Vince Colletta. The reprints are "Bruce Wayne Loses Custody Of Dick Grayson" and "The Second Boy Wonder." The cover is by Bob Brown and John Calnan. (12/23)

FREEDOM FIGHTERS No. 7, March-April. Black Condor goes berserk and The Crusaders show up because Earth's axis is shifting (or something) and The Elf wants it all in

"The Emperor Of The North Pole" by Bob Rozakis, Dick Ayers and Jack Abel. The cover is by Rich Buckler and Jack Abel. (12/23)

WONDER WOMAN No. 229, March. The new, original TV Wonder Woman stars in a story called "Tomorrow Belongs To Me" by Marty Pasko, José Delbo and Vince Colletta. The cover is by Garcia-Lopez and Colletta. (12/23)

ADVENTURE COMICS No. 450, March. A villain crosses over from FLASH as Aquaman faces his temperate traps in "The Watery War Of The Weather Wizard" by David Michelinie and Jim Aparo. Plus, J'onn J'onzz stars in "Return To Destiny" by Denny O'Neil, Mike Nasser and Terry Austin. The cover is by Aparo. (12/23)

ACTION COMICS No. 469, March. Terra Man seems to have wiped Superman off the map in "The Night Superman Was Buried In Boot Hill" by Cary Bates, Curt Swan and Tex Blaisdell. Also featured is "Clark Kent's Lonely Christmas" by Bob Rozakis, John Calnan and Blaisdell. The cover is by Bob Oksner. (12/28)

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DETECTIVE COMICS No. 468, March-April. The first bi-monthly issue features the wind-up of The Calculator's battle with Batman, Atom, Black Canary, Elongated Man, Green Arrow and Hawkman as they all get involved in "The Battle Of The Thinking Machines" by Bob Rozakis, Marshall Rogers and Terry Austin. The cover is by Jim Aparo. (12/28)

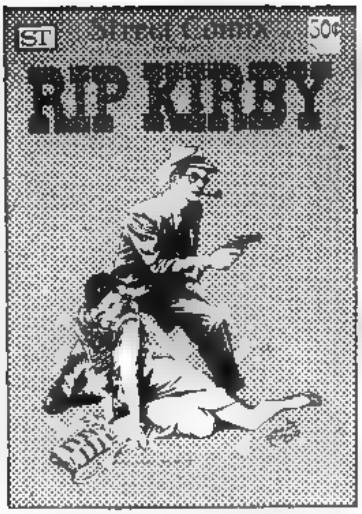
THE UNEXPECTED No. 178, March-April. (12/28)

ALL STAR COMICS No. 65, March-April. The JSA is captured and imprisoned on a planet of solid Kryptonite, the Injustice Society attacks and Green Lantern faces bankruptcy in "The Master Plan Of Vandal Savage" by Paul Levitz and Wally Wood. The cover is by Wood. (12/30)

YOUNG LOVE No. 124, March. Featured are a sequel, "Love Behind Bars II" plus another Alex Toth-Barbara Friedlander "20 Miles To Heartbreak" reprint and others. The cover is by Dick Giordano. Jack C. Harris is Story Editor. (12/30)

DC SUPER STARS No. 13, March-April. In probably the first use of an artist as title character, this issue features SERGIO ARAGONES in what was originally intended as a PLOP! special. The whole thing, including cover is by Aragones. (12/30)

WEIRD WESTERN TALES No. 39, March. "The Coming Of The Savage" spotlights the son of the late Matt Savage, Brian Savage who was raised by the Kiowa and finds himself an outcast land baron and cattle owner. Story is by Mike Fleisher and art is by Dick Ayers and George Evans. The cover is by Jose Garcia-Lopez. (12/30)



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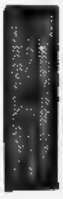

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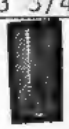

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